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at Cumberland Gap and watch pass the reconstructed line of march. Of course our eyes first catch the picturesque figure of Daniel Boone, in the popular mind the prototype of all hunter-farmers. But who is the well-dressed gentleman following so hard on the heels of Boone and evidently giving orders to this hero of the wilderness? That is Richard Henderson, the well-educated and eloquent lawyer of the North Carolina bar, who is responsible for the appearance in this region of Boone and of all the others who are making up this procession. Let us also take our stand on the Ohio river, that highway to the west, and watch pass the stream of boats. Here we shall see among the first the fur-traders from Pennsylvania and Virginia; but among them or coming soon after are such men as Thomas Walker, Christopher Gist, George Morgan, graduate of Princeton and prominent Philadelphia trader, Colonel John Connolly, Colonel George Washington — all interested in the exploration of western lands.

There is still another class of men not mentioned by Mr. Turner, and these are generally as early comers into the hinterland as the land speculators: the officers and soldiers of the western garrisons; they saw the west in its primeval dress, whether they carried the lilies of France, the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, or the flag of the American eagle.

The analysis of the later population into three classes, *a la* Mr. Peck, is also subject to criticism. The reviewer's own researches have given him a very close view of the population of Kentucky and Illinois in the early days. Mr. Peck to the contrary notwithstanding, all three classes arrived in both states practically contemporaneously. For instance, the people who composed the population of the state of Illinois in 1818 had for the most part all arrived within the borders of the territory within the previous decade; and among the population were such men as the English farmers led by Morris Birkbeck and southern gentlemen such as Nathaniel Pope and Edward Cole. The picture, therefore, of a succession of waves of immigration is incorrect. The figure should be a flood. Thus I have spoken, but it is only fair to say that my speaking has occurred some twenty-eight years after Mr. Turner wrote the famous passage.

C. W. A.

The United States: an experiment in democracy. By Carl Becker. (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1920. 333 p. \$2.50)

The publishers' announcement, as is too often the case, unfortunately, gives a somewhat misleading description of Professor Becker's *The United States: an experiment in democracy*, for it should not be dragged into the class of historical narratives. Every thoughtful student of American history sooner or later develops his own philosophy or, if you prefer, his own interpretation of American development. In most cases,

this does not differ radically from the interpretations of others; but an added touch here and a different emphasis there, with some new ideas, render it peculiarly his own. Professor Becker's latest book is essentially of this type.

The author would be, and by frequent quotations he practically is, the first to acknowledge his indebtedness to Professor Turner. That fact, with the added statement that the interpretation presented is in accord with the trend of American historical study of the last twenty-five years, should be sufficient to convey to most readers its dominating characteristic. It is the truth regarding American democracy as the author sees it; it is for the most part neither startling nor strikingly original, but it is told with the charm of style and felicity of phrase for which the author has achieved a reputation. Because it is so well done, the book is worth while for the sole purpose of helping to spread and to get accepted these ideas of American development. But it contains something more than that, and for the present reviewer its greatest value lies in the stimulating conclusion for which the rest has served as an explanation or introduction.

Professor Becker's starting point is that Europeans have seen in America "the image of democracy itself"; then the author proceeds to describe the character and the origins of American democracy, the course of its development, and its varying aspects; finally he leads up to the all-important consideration of how it may be made to endure. The essence of American democracy is to be sought in the general equality of opportunity and of conditions. It was "not our free government, but our fortunate economic situation, that has been the solid basis of our equality; and this fortunate situation is unhappily rapidly passing away." The explanation of the changed conditions is to be found in the taking up of the unoccupied land, and in the development of a concentrated and complex industrial life. In consequence of these things, we are now passing from the condition in which the all-important question was that of the production of wealth to the situation which has long been familiar in Europe, where the problem is that of the distribution of wealth.

In answer to the objection that interference by government with private initiative is a socialistic doctrine and contrary to the spirit of this government, Professor Becker claims that the government of the United States always has exercised "whatever governmental activity may be necessary to assure that fundamental equality of opportunity which is indispensable to true liberty and the very essence of democracy." But in order to meet the present demands, it is suggested that democracy involves "a radical modification of the modern state rather than an extension of its already overgrown powers." And the author concludes

with an interesting and stimulating statement of the form which such modification seems likely to take.

MAX FARRAND

When buffalo ran. By George Bird Grinnell. (New Haven: Yale university press, 1920. 114 p. \$2.50)

This little sketch of Indian life on the great plains three quarters of a century ago, issued by the Yale press as "a true story of Indian life," is not, as the casual reader might imagine, a biography by the author, but presumably a reproduction of the story of aboriginal life. For historical purposes it would be somewhat more satisfactory if the personality of the narrator and the circumstances of obtaining the story were set forth; for not even the tribe of the narrator is indicated. If any future writer should desire to quote from the book, or refer to it, he would be obliged to use the same indefinite style, and to rely solely on the weight of Mr. Grinnell's name for his authority.

The style of the story is notably convincing. The reader feels that he is reading facts. And yet the picture is unquestionably idealized by the omission of anything that might be repulsive to refined tastes. There are, of course, exceptions, but ordinarily the Indian is merely a human being of a lower class. His common thought and conversation are not on any such high plane as in this story. In fact, his favorite stories and jokes would not be admissible in polite society, as anyone may see from the folklore stories collected and printed by the Bureau of ethnology. On the other hand, the idealization is probably serving a beneficent purpose in its tendency to secure a belated justice to the survivors of the Indian tribes. In this aspect it is altogether commendable.

From the strictly historical standpoint, the reader should remember that we are now in the era of apotheosis of the Indian. Our ancestors underestimated and, as a rule vilified him; but in the recoil, present-day writers usually go to the other extreme. Possibly this is due to the utilitarian character of the American mind. Having acquired practically all the material valuables of the Indian, we are now exploiting the romance of his former existence to enhance the value of the place names and other relics that are left to us.

J. P. DUNN

American political ideas. Studies in the development of American political thought, 1865-1917. By Charles Edward Merriam. (New York: The Macmillan company, 1920. 481 p. \$2.75)

Remembering the notable contribution which Professor Merriam made to the literature of scientific political discussion several years ago when he published his *American political theories*, one is not surprised to find